

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the present amendment and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-15, 18-23 and 25-32 have been rejected.

Claims 6, 10-15, 23 and 27-32 were objected to.

Claims 3, 6, 20 and 23 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 7, 16, 17, 24, 33 and 34 were previously canceled.

Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 18, 25 and 26 have been amended.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-15, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 25-32 are pending in this application.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-6, 8-15, 18-23 and 25-32 have been provisionally rejected under nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-28 of US patent 6987749. A terminal disclaimer with regard to US 6987749 is filed herewith.

For the foregoing reason, applicants respectfully request that the above double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable claims

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 6 and intervening claim 3, which are subsequently canceled.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is now in a condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 8-9, 18-22 and 25-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kall et al. (US Publ. 2007/0086441) in view of Pirkanen et al. (US Publ. 2004/0157640). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 and 20 have been cancelled.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is now in a condition for allowance as detailed above.

Independent claim 18 has been amended to include the same recitations as amended claim 1 (by incorporating deleted claims 20 and 23), in apparatus form, as is therefore deemed allowable as well for the same reasons.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 are dependent on claim 1, hereby incorporated by reference, and are therefore deemed allowable as well for the same reasons. Similarly, claims 19, 21, 22, 25 and 26 are dependent on claim 18, hereby incorporated by reference, and are therefore deemed allowable as well for the same reasons. Additionally, claims 10-15 are dependent on claim 1, hereby incorporated by reference, and are therefore deemed allowable as well for the same reasons. Further, claims 27-32 are dependent on claim 18, hereby incorporated by reference, and are therefore deemed allowable as well for the same reasons.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

The other references of record have been reviewed and applicant's invention is deemed patentably distinct and nonobvious over each taken alone or in combination.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully request that the above rejections be withdrawn.

Inasmuch as this amendment distinguishes all of the applicants' claims over the prior art references, for the many reasons indicated above, passing of this case is now believed to be in order. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any fees necessitated by actions taken herein to Deposit Account 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,
Cai et al.

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